



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### Patrick Administration Announces Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit *New Resource Provides In-Depth Technical Assistance for Municipalities*

WORCESTER – Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles today unveiled the second edition of the Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit – a collection of resources that encourages sustainable development by helping communities, developers and other stakeholders with a wide range of land-use planning and development issues. Building on an earlier version that focused solely on Smart Growth techniques, the newly-expanded Toolkit also covers Smart Energy topics such as efficiency, green building, and sources of renewable power.

“This Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit provides cities and towns with the model bylaws and other tools they need to change local zoning in ways that encourage the siting of renewable energy facilities, conserve land, and enhance stewardship of natural resources,” said Secretary Bowles, who announced the new Toolkit at today’s Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference. “Using Toolkit techniques, communities can foster needed community development – including new homes and businesses – while conserving energy and reducing environmental impacts.”

The Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit encourages implementation of the Patrick-Murray Administration’s Sustainable Development Principles, which include: concentrating development and mixing uses; advancing equity; making efficient decisions; protecting land and ecosystems; using natural resources wisely; expanding housing opportunities; providing transportation choices; increasing job and business opportunities; promoting clean energy; and planning regionally.

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Toolkit modules include narratives, model bylaws, case studies, slideshows and resource links on business improvement districts, mill revitalization districts, outreach and education, smart energy, wind power, environmental justice, smart parking, wastewater alternatives, zoning decisions, and form-based codes – building codes that regulate development to achieve a specific urban form or community vision. In addition, many of the 12 modules in the original Smart Growth Toolkit were updated and expanded, including those relating to brownfield reuse and low-impact development.

The Smart Growth/Smart Energy Toolkit was produced with assistance from the Horsley Witten Group, a Cape Cod-based environmental consulting firm. To view the Toolkit online, visit [http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/index.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/index.html).

Governor Patrick's Sustainable Development Principles can be found at [http://www.mass.gov/Agov3/docs/smart\\_growth/patrick-principles.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Agov3/docs/smart_growth/patrick-principles.pdf).

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